

From: G. Franklin South
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/15/02 7:56pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

It is difficult for me to understand why there is still so much controversy about settling The United States versus Microsoft, when the United States and nine of these 'united states' have accepted a proposed settlement. Nine other states, supported and encouraged by competitors of Microsoft, seem to question the wisdom and the veracity and the ability of their litigation partners to monitor and enforce the provisions of the proposed settlement.

I fail to see how continued litigation and argument and rehash is going to benefit me as a computer user. For that matter, I still do not see how I have been disadvantaged or overcharged by Microsoft. As an example, I used the Netscape Communicator for almost a year, but then downloaded Internet Explorer and after some use, decided that I liked the Explorer better. On the other hand, even though I use Microsoft Word, I do not use Microsoft Excel, but rather use IBM Lotus 123.

I read the argument that the competitors of Microsoft do not have a level playing field, that they are disadvantaged by Microsoft size and market share. I do point out that not too many years ago, IBM was in a similar position - they had a monopoly on the data processing business. I dare say that many competitors by hard work and improved technology have disproven the argument that you can't compete against the big bully.

I think it is time for those state attorney generals who are trying to disrupt a proposed settlement of United States versus Microsoft, written, reviewed and accepted by the US Department of Justice, and nine states, to put personal ambition aside for the good of all of the data processing users. I believe it is next to impossible to try to substantiate how further delay is going to reward individual users of computers and computer software.